

Official Final Response

This facsimile message and its contents are legally privileged and confidential information intended solely for the use of the addressee. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, copying or other use of this message and its contents is strictly prohibited. If you have received this telecopy in error, please notify us immediately by telephone and return the original message to us at the address shown below via the Postal Service. Thank You.

ALSTON & BIRD LLP

3201 Beechleaf Court, Suite 600
Raleigh, NC 27604-1062

919-862-2200
Fax: 919-862-2260

APR 18 2003

TELECOPY**PLEASE DELIVER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**

DATE: April 17, 2003

TO: U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
ATTN: Examiner Dionne Walls
Technology Center 1731

FROM: Christopher M. Humphrey

RE:

Response Under 37 C.F.R. 1.116 – Expedited
Procedure – Examining Group 1731

In re: Dube *et al.*

Confirmation No.: 7464

Appl. No.: 09/624,820

Group No.: 1731

Filed: July 25, 2000

Examiner: D. Walls

For: METHOD OF IMPROVING FLAVOR IN SMOKING ARTICLE

Documents Attached: Second Amendment After Final Action (3 pages)

NO. OF PAGES:
(Including cover page)

4

OPERATOR:

Dam81496#3

IF NOT RECEIVED PROPERLY, PLEASE NOTIFY ME IMMEDIATELY AT (919) 862-2221.

USER CODE: HUMPC

FAX NUMBER: (703) 872-9311

CLIENT/MATTER: 030627/184817

REQUESTED BY: Christopher M. Humphrey, Ext.
2213

VOICE NUMBER: (703) 305-0933

APR. -17' 03 (THU) 12:29

P 002/004

#13 D/BM
4-22-03

Attorney's Docket No. JJ-124B-R&D

PATENT

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116 – EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE – EXAMINING GROUP 1731**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

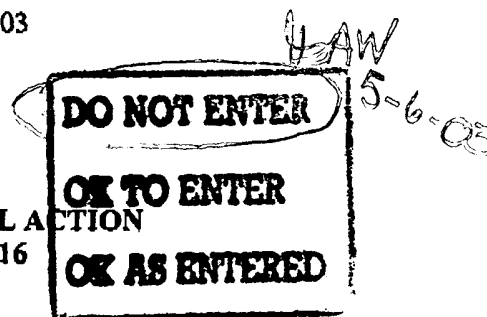
In re: Dube *et al.*
Appl. No.: 09/624,820
Filed: July 25, 2000
For: METHOD OF IMPROVING FLAVOR IN SMOKING ARTICLE

Confirmation No.: 7464
Group Art Unit: 1731
Examiner: D. Walls

April 17, 2003

BOX AF
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

**SECOND AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL ACTION
PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.116**



Sir:

This following is offered as a second full and complete response to the Final Office Action mailed March 27, 2003. Since a Notice of Appeal was filed on March 10, 2003, this Amendment is timely filed. Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 1-4, 6-9, 13, and 15-24 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add new Claims 27-30 as follows:

27. (New) The method of Claim 10, wherein said mixture further comprises water.
28. (New) The method of Claim 10, wherein the heat treatment is conducted under a pressure of from about 20 psig to about 500 psig.

RTA01/2135364v1

Received from < > at 4/17/03 12:32:25 PM [Eastern Daylight Time]

APR 18 2003